

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 5-7, 11 and 14-18 as indicated below.

Please amend claims 2, 8, 9, 12 and 19 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 1, wherein a step of modifying, further comprises the step of:~~ A method for operating a communication system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first information frame;

selectively receiving a first response in response to transmission of the first information frame;

measuring a first amount of time between transmission of the first information frame and receipt of the first response;

selectively modifying a response time value in response to the first amount of time, wherein said step of measuring a first amount of time between transmission of the first information frame and receipt of the first response uses a timer operating in response to a clock, and wherein said response time value is a response time value of said timer; and

incrementing an initial response time value by a timer resolution value, to form the response time value.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the initial response time value is incremented up to a maximum response time value.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the initial response time value is a default value.

Claims 5-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 7~~ A method for operating a communication system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first frame of information;

initiating operation of a timer with a first response time;

determining when a first query response has been received; and

selectively incrementing the first response time when the first query response has been received;

wherein the first response time is incremented by a timer resolution value.

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:~~
A method for operating a communication system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first frame of information;

initiating operation of a timer with a first response time;

determining when a first query response has been received;

selectively incrementing the first response time when the first query response has been received;

setting a transmit sequence value when the first frame of information is transmitted;

initiating operation of a response timer when the first information frame is transmitted;

comparing the transmit sequence value and a receive sequence value when the first response is received; and

idling operation of the response timer when the transmit sequence value corresponds to the receive sequence value.

Claim 10 (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

restarting operation of the response timer when the transmit sequence value differs from the receive sequence value.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:~~ A method for operating a communication system, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first frame of information;

initiating operation of a timer with a first response time;

determining when a first query response has been received;

selectively incrementing the first response time when the first query response has been received;

transmitting a second information frame;

selectively receiving a second response in response to transmission of the second information frame;

measuring a second amount of time between transmission of the second information frame and receipt of the second response;

selectively initializing a query timer with a maximum response time value;

and

selectively modifying the response time value to correspond to a residual time value remaining in a response timer after the second amount of time has passed.

Claim 13 (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the response time value is selectively modified to equal the residual time value plus a timer resolution value.

Claims 14-18 (cancelled) The method of claim 7 wherein the first response time is a default value.

Claim 19 (currently amended) ~~The first data processing system of claim 17, further comprising:~~ A first data processing system for communicating with a second data processing system, comprising:

interface means for transmitting a first information frame and for selectively receiving a first response in response to transmission of the first information frame;

a timer for measuring a first amount of time between transmission of the first information frame and receipt of the first response, the timer being coupled to the interface means;

a central processing unit coupled to the timer for selectively modifying a response time value in response to the first amount of time; and

means for incrementing the response timer value by a preselected time period in response to the first amount of time.